



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

Bigelow Tea  
Boise, Idaho

2012

### Environmental Commitment

Bigelow Tea currently produces over 120 varieties of flavored, traditional, green, organic, herbal and decaffeinated teas that are packaged in over 1.6 billion tea bags per year. The Bigelow Tea facility in Boise helps serve the company's west coast customers and packages all varieties of the company's tea products. Over the past 30 years, the company has fostered a culture of sustainability. The company has been highly successful in reducing the amount of waste generated at its Boise facility as well as increasing the percentage of its solid waste recycled and composted. In addition, the company has taken numerous other steps to reduce energy use and improve efficiency. Bigelow Tea is focused on reducing pollution and energy use.

### Pollution Prevention Success

Bigelow Tea has successfully managed its waste streams and energy consumption, both of which have helped to contribute to reducing pollution. The company has also been successful in its efforts to involve and engage its workforce to help drive reductions in pollution.

#### Waste Minimization

Bigelow Tea currently recycles or composts 92% of the solid waste it generates through its production process. The Boise plant has been successful in reducing solid waste being sent to the landfill from approximately 18,000 lbs. per month to approximately 3,500 lbs. per month, for a total savings of over 174,000 lbs. per year. Among the creative ways Bigelow has managed to reduce the amount of waste being landfilled include donating cardboard boxes to the Idaho Food Bank for use in delivering food to needy families and offering old and broken pallets to a local vendor for repurposing. All remaining waste generated onsite is either recycled or composted. Bigelow Tea has also made steps to reduce the amount of waste generated through its processes. The company now uses reusable bands in lieu of plastic wrap for storage of finished product onsite.

#### Energy Conservation

Bigelow Tea has implemented a number of energy-saving technologies and techniques to help cut down on power use at its Boise facility. Bigelow Tea participates in an energy management program to cut down on unnecessary electricity use during peak demand times, saving energy and helping reduce the need for utilities to increase electrical generation capacity. Bigelow Tea has also updated its lighting systems to cut down on electricity use during working hours. Finally, Bigelow Tea has updated its machine equipment to operate more efficiently, allowing the company to use less electricity to package the same volume of tea products. The pollution prevention savings from this changeover are significant. Not only are volatile organic compounds released by burning CNG, but significant reductions of other compounds occur as well. Fine particulates responsible for summertime ozone pollution are minimized, for example, while carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides are reduced as well. These efforts represent a significant step toward reducing pollution in Idaho.

### For More Information

To learn more about Bigelow Tea's pollution prevention efforts, visit the company's website at <http://www.bigelowtea.com/sustainabilitea.aspx>.